



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 1260-A

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, which seeks to reclassify marijuana as other than a Schedule I or Schedule II substance.

By Council Members Koppell, Dromm, James, Koo, Levin, Nelson, Palma, Rose, Williams, Rodriguez, Mendez, Van Bramer, Barron and Mark-Viverito

Whereas, Narcotics and other chemicals that are considered controlled substances under the United States Controlled Substances Act ("CSA") are divided into five schedules; and

Whereas, The Schedule I classification applies to a category of substances considered by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") to contain no legitimate medical value and exhibit a high potential of dependence; and

Whereas, Cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, is a narcotic classified by the federal government as a Schedule I substance; and

Whereas, Narcotics that share the same Schedule I classification with marijuana are heroin and ecstasy; and

Whereas, The DEA categorizes Schedule II substances, such as opium and morphine, as drugs that are considered to have a strong potential for abuse or addiction and which may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence; and

Whereas, In 2009, the American Medical Association announced that it would support clinical research of medical marijuana and urged the federal government to reassess its Schedule I classification of the drug; and

Whereas, According to studies conducted by the University of California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, medical marijuana should be the first line of treatment for patients with neuropathy and other serious illnesses; and

Whereas, There are currently twenty states, including New Jersey, as well as the District of Columbia, that

have enacted laws legalizing the medicinal use of marijuana; and

Whereas, These states recognize that medical marijuana can be used to alleviate patients' suffering from debilitating medical conditions, such as cancer and multiple sclerosis; and

Whereas, The United States government continues to classify marijuana as a drug for which there is no medicinal value; and

Whereas, The divergence in state and federal law creates a problematic situation where there is no comprehensively regulated system to supply legitimate patients who are in need of medical marijuana; and

Whereas, H.R. 689, also known as the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, which is currently pending in the United States House of Representatives, seeks to reclassify marijuana as other than a Schedule I or Schedule II substance; and

Whereas, The States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would exempt states where medical marijuana is legal from provisions in the CSA prohibiting the prescription, distribution, possession, and use of marijuana; and

Whereas, Enacting the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would protect medical marijuana patients and their providers from federal criminal penalties in states that have legalized marijuana for medical use; and

Whereas, The long-standing classification of marijuana in the United States as an illegal Schedule I substance is fundamentally flawed and should be changed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, which seeks to reclassify marijuana as other than a Schedule I or Schedule II substance.

WJH/CGP  
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